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Evidence was apparent that results of the present anticorruption drive, which was an outgrowth of the original effort to increase production and eliminate waste, were in some cases directly counter to the original aims. Several regional broadcasting stations urged that "production not be decreased" during the drive, and Mukden even pointed with pride to several factories that had met their quotas "in spite of" the drive against corruption. Hangchow singled out some cases where business activity had come to a complete halt as a result of the fight against corruption. Both the East China and the Northwest China Military and Administrative Committees took the drastic action of ordering the antiwaste, anticorruption, antibureaucracy movement halted "until after spring farming" in the rural areas, revealing unmistakeable indications that the drive in many instances actually had cut production rather than increasing it.

There also was a clear indication of considerable reluctance among some employees, including shop clerks, to take part in the charges and accusations against employers. Many meetings of clerks and workers were reported at which the employees were warned to "correct their thinking," "overcome their rightist thinking," "resist the blandishments of capitalists," "overcome their hesitancy," or "overcome their fears." Especially was this reluctance reported among the accountants and senior clerks, but there also was evidence that the general public had lost some of its enthusiasm. Sian reported a special meeting called by officials to "urge the people to support the cadres" in the drive. Sian also reported that when lenient treatment was announced for accused merchants in 21 local stores, there was new enthusiasm for promoting the drive.

In wilful resistance to the anticorruption drive, however, broadcasts seemed to stress the efforts of capitalists to penetrate into State organs and win over the assistance of Government employees. Numerous plots of businessmen to plant their agents in Government units were reported, and numerous public employees were branded as agents of capitalists. However, there were still numerous reports of pressure exerted by businessmen on their employees to prevent exposure, and the forming of mutual alliances still received considerable attention. Most of the resistance is assumed to be from the industrial and commercial interests, although there was a growing list of public officials accused of collaborating with the capitalists.

Several high officials in the Wuhan City Government, including the Mayor and Vice Mayor, were dismissed, supposedly for their "mishandling" of a corruption case in a Wuhan hospital. Also dismissed was the Mayor of Chiangmen, Kwangtung, where "rightist thought" was said to be serious, and nothing had been done about the corrupt practices of dishonest merchants. This Mayor had previously been reported as dismissed, by the Wuhan radio Jan. 30, for extravagance and his "openly expressed dissatisfaction" with the Government. Several other important officials, regretfully described as "old Party members," or men who "had engaged in revolution for 20 years," were dismissed because of their opposition to official policies.

A growing tendency was noted toward playing up corruption among businessmen supplying the Chinese Volunteers in Korea, and placing the blame for failures in Korea upon businessmen at home. Propaganda efforts to play up the cases reported last week were apparent, along with a new and longer list of cases. Frequent mention was made of letters from the people protesting the corruption already exposed, and demands for severe punishment. Corrupt activities mentioned in the new reports were described as "affecting adversely the needs at the front," "seriously undermining the Chinese Volunteers in action," "increasing the difficulties of the Chinese Volunteers," and "seriously hindering the military transport mission of the Chinese Volunteers." Corruption in the building of a hospital was said to have "cost the lives of brave Chinese Volunteers, who escaped from the fiery hell of Korea to meet their death at home."

An extension of these charges that corruption had hindered the war effort to other fields also was noted. Chungking reported that tents and artillery covers made for the Army going into Tibet were inferior. Canton reported that in Chiangmen, where the Mayor was dismissed, officials in the Resist-America, Aid-Korea Association had embezzled money "contributed for the purchase of hand grenades." Announcement of the early publication of reports on these contributions in various localities might be opening the way for new charges of corruption in handling the donations.

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In the radio reports of persons arrested for corruption, big tigers seemed to predominate this time. Big tigers were previously described as those who took 100 million yuan or more, caused the Government to lose 100 million yuan or more, or stole Government economic information. The prize big tiger case was that of businessmen, collaborating with Government employees, who furnished faulty equipment and materials for the Huai River harnessing project, "seriously and adversely affecting the prosecution" of the project. Most of the big tigers were businessmen, but a considerable number of Government officials were included. Among the smaller cases of corruption, Government employees predominated.

Considerable alarm at prospects of excessive drought in 1952 was apparent, linked with a fear that spring farming might be delayed. Farmers were ordered to "intensify their efforts" in reconstructing irrigation systems, and in one area in Shansi farmers were reported busy piling snow on 10,000 mou of land. Broadcasting stations in the Northeast, North China, and even in Szechwan, reflected this fear of drought. Other farm shortages were admitted. It was reported that in northern Kiangsu rice and cotton production during the past 2 years "almost reached" the prewar level, while in some parts of Fukien Province 30 percent of the peasants were said to be short of food. A shortage of plow oxen was also reported from Fukien as well as a shortage of seed.

Other indications were seen of possible difficulties in Fukien. Among all the 22 regional stations monitored during the period under study, only Foochow failed to mention the anticorruption drive or to devote considerable attention to it. In the past no such difference was noted. Also, a list of current prices in East China cities broadcast by Shanghai showed only Foochow deviating considerably from the norm. Prices on all the items mentioned were about the same in the other cities, but in Foochow, while such items as soap, matches, and newsprint were much cheaper, such essentials as cloth and yarn, rice, flour, salt, and edible oil were much higher than in the other cities. The price of flour was nearly 35 percent higher in Foochow than in Nanking.

Another indication of the concern over possible food shortages in various parts of China is seen in a Taiyuan broadcast, quoting a directive on spring farming in Shansi which urged that potatoes be planted. Potatoes ordinarily are not considered as a standard food crop in that area.

Considerable attention was given to land reform, with little of significance except the continued evidence of resistance in the Southwest, where sympathy with the landlords was noted in several instances, both in Yunnan and Szechwan. Mukden again revealed official interest in the development of collective farming in the Northeast.

Kunming announced that the morning exercises would be broadcast at 8:30 each day starting Feb. 21. These programs, introduced by Peking Dec. 1, 1951, with considerable fanfare, had received rather a cold reception, and the Kunming announcement was the first reference noted from the regional stations in nearly 2 months.

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